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The Communist coup in Czechoslovakia came as a complete surprise. The non-Communist opposition had made no preparations against such an eventuality. The anti-Communist Ministers of the Cabinet consulted Benes before they resigned and were assured by him that parliamentary democracy would not be endangered by their resignations.

Bohumil Lauzman was sincere in his stand, but that he was forced to yield to pressure from the left-wing Social Democratic group of Fierlinger. Although the rank and file of the Social Democratic members were anti-Communist, the majority of the important functionaries of the party belonged to the left wing.

3. Anti-Communist resistance in Slovakia, [redacted] cannot be counted upon, because of a complete lack of arms and leaders. The Communist terror there will probably be entirely successful. 50X1-HUM

4. The following information on new members of the Cabinet was provided:

- a. Frantisek Krajcir, Minister for Domestic Trade, is one of the top Communist leaders and an unintelligent follower of Party orders.
- b. Antonin Gregor, Minister for Foreign Trade, is a prosecutor by profession and uninformed on matters of foreign trade. During the first Czechoslovak Republic he was a Social Democrat, but turned Communist in May 1945.

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- c. Emanuel Slechta, Minister for Technical Affairs, is described as a "National Socialist traitor". [redacted]

5. [redacted] Zorin no longer has the rank of Ambassador to Prague. However, it was open talk among National Assembly members that Zorin, after his recent return to Prague, was in constant telephone communication with Gottwald. 50X1-HUM

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